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**SF 338** – School Employee Background Checks (LSB 1539SV)  
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Fiscal Note Version – New  
Requested by Representative Megan Hess

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**Description**

**Senate File 338** requires background checks for nonlicensed school employees.

**Background**

Currently, school employees licensed by the Board of Educational Examiners (BoEE) and school bus drivers are required to have background investigations performed. All other individuals employed by a school district are not required to undergo a background investigation. This Bill requires all school employees, not including licensed employees and bus drivers, to undergo a background investigation prior to employment.

This Bill requires a school district to review the following prior to hiring an applicant for a school employee position and every five years on the anniversary of a school employee's year of hire:

- Iowa court information system available to the general public
- State sex offender registry available to the general public
- State central registry for child abuse information maintained by the Iowa Department of Human Services
- State central registry for dependent adult abuse information maintained by the Iowa Department of Human Services

**Assumptions**

- In FY 2012 there were 33,642 nonlicensed individuals employed by school districts. The Department of Education estimates 9,600 of the nonlicensed employees are bus drivers currently required to undergo a background investigation. This Bill covers the remaining 24,042 nonlicensed individuals employed by school districts.
- New hires account for 20.0% (4,809 individuals) of the total number of nonlicensed individuals employed by school districts.
- School districts are required to review 20.0% or (4,809 individuals) on the five-year anniversary of the employee's year of hire.
- Review of the Iowa court information system will be performed by current school district staff using current resources.
- Review of the state sex offender registry will be performed by current school district staff using current resources.
- The cost to school districts to check the central registry for child abuse and dependent adult abuse is \$2.00.

**Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact to the State General Fund.

The estimated statewide total cost to school districts is estimated to be \$19,236 per year. The average cost per school district is estimated to be \$55.

**Sources**

Board of Educational Examiners  
Department of Education

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

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April 2, 2013

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The fiscal note for this bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.

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